RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the *17th August,* 1994/26th Sravana, 1916 (*Saka*)

The House met at eleven of the clock The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*321. [*The Questioner (Shri K.R. Malkani) was absent. For answer* vide col..... infra].

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope by tomorrow everybody will be here.

*322. [*The Questioner (Shri Ram narayan Goswami) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 35 infra].

Steps to Achieve Targets of Crude Oil Production

323. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR+:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target for crude oil production for the year 1993-94;

(b) whether there was a shortfall in achieving the target;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to see that the target fixed for the crude oil production is properly achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAP. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Steps to Achieve the Targets of Crude oil Production

(a) to (c) Against the target of 27.17 million tonnes, the actual production of crude oil during 1993-94 was 27.02 million tonnes. Crude oil production by ONGC from their Western offshore and Western onshore regions exceeded the target. Likewise, Oil India Limited achieved a production exceeding the target for the year 1993-94. However, shortfall in production occurred from ONGC's Eastern Region due to continued environmental constraints there.

(d) The steps taken to achieve the target include:

(i) Completion of projects in time;

(ii) Short term measures for increasing production; and

(iii) Close monitoring of production activities through frequent and regular reviews of the production performance with respect to the targets of various regions.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, in the year 1989-90 crude oil production had reached the highest ever mark of 34.09 million tonnes. Since that time it is continuously declining. In spite of the measures which the hon. Minister has mentioned here in part (d) of the reply, during the last 15 years we have not been able to reach the 34.09 million tonne mark, our own record. In spite of advancement in technology and all-out efforts to achieve this crude oil production, what is the reason why we have not been able to reach that mark during the last 15 years, and what steps will be taken to see that we reach that mark?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Madam, through you, I would like to convey to the hon. Member that I would entirely agree with him that we had reached in 1989-90 the production of 34 million tonnes which was the highest ever. Since

then the crude oil production has been on the decline. But, I am glad to inform the House that the first thing to be done was to arrest this decline and that we succeeded in doing that. In 1993-94 this decline was arrested. The production went up from 26.95 million tonnes to 27.02 million tonnes, but, more importantly, starting from this year, our production is going to go up significantly. We are expecting our production to go up in this year from 27.02 million tonnes to 31.51 million tonnes. Next year it will go up to 38.3 million tonnes. In 1996-97 our production will go up to around 44.45 million tonnes. I am glad to inform you that we will not only be crossing the highest-ever level of 34.09 million tonnes of 1989-90, but our production, starting from this year, will also see an upward trend. In 1996-97 we will be reaching our target of 44.45 million tonnes, which will be the highest ever. We want to sustain that level and start from there. So, that is the position as it stands now.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, I thank the Minister for the confidence he has expressed. As per the Eighth Plan, the target for crude oil production for the current year is 32.51 million tonnes. As the Minister has rightly said and he has said this even earlier also very emphatically in the month of May—we would reach the target of 44.5 million tonnes by 1996-97.

Now, in the background of our experience for the last 15 years, does the Government feel that the machinery is properly geared up and well equipped to see that we achieve this target of 32.51 million tonnes?

One fact remains that the crude oil production in the Bombay High is declining. One of the former Chairmen of ONGC has recently issued a statement saying that over exploitation of the wells in the Bombay High ONGC has been responsible for the decline in the Bombay off-shore production. Considering all these facts does the Govenment feel that it is properly geared up to achieve this target?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: The hon. Member is correct when he mentions about the problems we had in the Bombay High in the past where we had to shut off 60 wells to restore the reservoir health. This came about because of over-exploitation in the year 1989. I am happy to share with the Members here that in the southern part of the Bombay High, the reservoir behaviour is showing improvement. In some of the recently drilled platform wells the gas formation is normal. Further efforts are being made to do the water shut off job. But having said that, I would say that is only part of the overal situation. Because of the short an medium-term steps which we ha already taken, we are confident, as mentioned earlier, not only of achiev the 32.51 million tonnes this year, but oil production will also see an upw trend and progressively we will reaching, as I mentioned, 44.45 milli tonnes in the year 1996-97. There is doubt in my mind of these figures whi am sharing with you. The more impor issue here is not the production going That is only half the story. The impo issue here is that the reserve acc must go up. The reserve accretio been on the decline in the last ten or so. That is a matter of serious c to me and to the country. We are t some steps. Amongst them the important is that in the next three we are launching, what we call, enhan exploration strategy—the three-ye national exploration plan—where by w intended to carry out the explorati work in deep-sea zones in frontier area All these steps are being taken in th next three years to see that not only w are able to sustain this higher level production which we are going achieve, but also these are improved a sustained beyond the Eighth Plan peric i.e. in the Ninth Plan period. In that t reservoir accretion is the key issue whi we are working out.

श्री रामगोपाल यादव: महोदया, माननीय मंत्री ने यह जो सवाल का जवाब दिया है और यह बता

कि 1996-97 तक प्रोडक्शन 44 मिलियन टन तक हो जाएगा। मैडम, जो 1993-94 की स्थिति थी, उसमें उत्पादन लक्ष्य के करीब पहुंचा है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में यह स्वीकार किया है कि यह जो ओ॰एन॰जी॰सी॰ का ईस्टर्न रीजन है, उसमें एंवायरनमेंटल कंसट्रेंट की वजह से कमी आई और जो 1996-97 के लिए आपने आशा व्यक्त की है कि इतना जबर्दस्त प्रोडक्शन होगा, तो एक तो स्थिति यह है कि एंवायरनमेंटल कंसट्रेंट्स तो रहेंगे ही, उनकी अनसर्टेनटी है, यह निश्चित नहीं है कि यह दिक्कतें आएंगी नहीं। फिर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि ऐसा कौन सा फुलप्रूफ अरेंजमेंट आपने किया है जिसकी वजह से सब कुछ देखते हुए भी आप यह कह सकते हैं कि अगले दो-तीन वर्षों में लगभग 30 परसेंट से भी ज्यादा प्रोडक्शन आपका बढ़ जाएगा? आपकी क्या योजना है? किस तरह से आपका चाहे बम्बई हाई-वे हो या और जो क्रूड ऑयल प्रोडक्शन की एजेंसीज हों, उसमें गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने की आपकी क्या योजना है जिसकी वजह से इतना जबर्दस्त इम्प्रूवमेंट होगा और आप इस लक्ष्य को हासिल कर लेंगे?

कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा: मैडम, जो अभी मैम्बर ने मेन्शन किया कि हमारे ईस्टर्न रीजन में हमारे प्रोडक्शन में कमी आई और साथ ही साथ इन्होंने मेंशन किया कि 96-97 के मैंने जो फिगर्स दिए हैं, यहां अगर आप देखें जो हमारा ज्यादा प्रोडक्शन है, वह वेस्टर्न ऑफशोर से है, बॉम्बे हाई से है। ईसटन रीजन में एन्वायर्नमेंटल प्रॉब्लम है। असम के अलग मसले हैं। नागालैंड में हमारा प्रोडक्शन बंद है पर यह होते हुए भी ये सब समस्याएं हम देख ही रहे हैं और सुलझ जाएगी, समय की बात है। पर जो मेन हमारा ऐम्पैनसिस है, वह जो हमारा मेन प्रोडक्शन है, वह बॉम्बे हाई से है, उस रीजन से है तो इस में कोई चिन्ता की बात नहीं है। जो मैंने आपको फिगर्स दिए हैं, वे पूरे होंगे। गुजरात ऑफशोर से जहां से हमारा तेल आ रहा है, आप जानते हैं, ज्यादा भी रहा है...

श्री रामगोपाल यादव: माननीय मंत्री जी, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यह व्यवस्था है, यही तो मेरा सवाल है। ये रहेगी समस्याएं, इसके बावजूद आपने कौन सी व्यवस्था सोची है जिसकी वजह से प्रोडक्शन बढ़ जाए? क्या उसकी कैपेसिटी को बढ़ाने की कोशिश की है? क्या और कोई टेक्नॉलॉजिक्ल इम्प्रूवमेंट किया है?

उपसभापति: उन्होंने बताया था कि सिस्मिक ऐक्सप्लोरेशन लाएंगे डीप सी में। उसकी वजह से पता लगेगा। नई ऑयल फील्ड्स मिलेगी।

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I think the Member is mixing up the exploration issue with the production issue. They are altogether two separate things. Madam, let me, through you, enlighten the Member about the medium-term measures which we have taken to increase oil production. They are development of new fields—Neelam, Gandhar, South Heera; additional development of existinmg fields—Bombay High (L-II and L-III); joint venture development of medium fields—12 fields offered including Mukta, Panna, Ravva, D-I, Heavy oil of Rajasthan. If you look at the private development of small fields, 31 fields have been offered. The other steps include inhancement of water injection, enhanced oil recovery in North Gujarat, etc., etc. These are the medium-term steps which we have taken to achieve the levels of production which I have mentioned.

The other part of the hon. Member's question is about exploration. That is entirely a different subject. As I mentioned earlier, for the purpose of exploration we have got to spend Rs. 6,500 crores of additional amount which has already been earmarked over the next three years to carry out exploration work, for the first time, under the deep sea water, to carry out exploration work in the frontier areas, etc., etc., to bring about an increase in the reserve position of the country.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू: महोदया, मंत्री महोदय ने बिन्दु व्यक्त की है ऐक्सप्लोरेशन के योजना की ओर सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट किया है। मंत्री महोदय ने यह भी बताया है कि ये खदान में तेल की कमी हो रही है। इसके लिए नए ऐक्सप्लोरेशन किए जाएंगे। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि ऐक्सप्लोरेशन के लिए वे कहां-कहां और क्या योजना बना रहे हैं? इसके लिए प्लानिंग कमीशन ने कुछ विशेष आंबटन किया है या नहीं किया है? उत्तर बिहार के वाल्मीकि नगर जो नेपाल के बार्डर पर है, वहां पर किसी जमाने में ऐक्सप्लोरेशन की बात सोची गई थी। तो वहां क्या प्रगति है, मैं इन्हीं तीन बातों की ओर मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकृष्ट करूंगा और जानना चाहूंगा।

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Madam Deputy Chairman, a few days ago, the Cabinet cleared a sum of Rs. 6,500 crores. There is no budgetary support. The Government is not giving us any money. We are going to raise resources from internal sources by going to the capital market. We will have an additional Rs. 6,500 cores for this Accelerated exploration Programme which I have mentioned earlier. This is basically an exploration programme. We have envisaged a target for accretion of recoverable reserves of at least 1325 MMT... in the Eighth Plan period. To achieve quick and speedy accretion of reserves, we will have to carry out the national seismic programme, we will have to carry out the oil exploration in prospective areas, we will have to carrry out the oil exploration in the front areas and enhance such programmes for exploration of oil in the overseas areas for acquisition of acreage abroad. That is what we are planning to undertake. As far as the other part of the question is concerned, I think, it relates to Bihar. The ONGC has been carrying out the exploration activity in Bihar. So far, the ONGC has carried out 7,138 land kms of seismic survey apart from the aero-magnetic, the ground-magnetic and the periodic surveys. But, this has been without any commercial success. The ONGC has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 70.56 crores for the exploration activities in Bihar till 31st March, 1993. The Oil India Limited has recently started exploration in the Ganga Valley Basin which will also cover some areas in the State of Bihar.

उपसभापति : पंजाब में जो एक्सप्लोरेशन हो रहा है, उसके बारे में पूछेंगे।

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Thank you, Madam. First of all, I would like to appreciate the satisfaction level that the hon. Minister expressed in the field of crude oil production. It is a fact and the hon. Minister also admitted that the decline in the crude oil production from 1989 to 1993 was due to the depletion of reserves. This was the reason for decline which the hon. Minister mentioned. I have got the crude oil reserves statistics with me. The estimated crude oil reserves were 801 million tonnes. In 1992, the production was 29 million tonnes. In 1993 also, the production was 29 million tonnes. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how far these reserves would really increase, not in the new oil-fields, but in the existing oil fields. This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question pertains to my own State. How long will it take to complete the Bhatinda-Kandla gas pipeline? The estimated cost has increased from Rs. 940 crores to Rs. 2,40(crores. I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister in this regard.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Madam through you, I would like to share witl the Member his concern on the reserve accretion. I have been discussing th reserves accretion this morning layin emphasis on this issue because it is serious issue. The important thing is tha in the last ten years, we have not reall menaged to achieve the targets. In fact for the Eighth Plan, the target was 1,32 million tonnes. But, out of that target, s far, we have achieved only 200 milio tonnes, which is a matter of concern Hence, we are taking all the steps t make sure that our reserves accretio goes up and I am confident that with th National Exploration Plan which we ar bringing about, for which I am raisin Rs. 6,500 crores, on my own, without an Government support, because I realis the importance of this problem, enhance exploration activity would be undertake so that in the next three years, Ind finds new oil—another joint oil-field lik the Bombay High. That is what we ar looking for and I am confident that b making the extra effort in the exploratic field, we will succeed in getting the add tional reserves accretion going up. I don think the other part of the questic relates to this question.

उप सभापतिः आप प्रश्न का दूसरा नोटिस दे दीजिए उसका जवाब वह दे देंगे।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam Deputy Chairman, it is a fact that the hon. Minister is taking a keen interest in the oil exploration field in order to augment the supply of crude through higher production in this country. And Several rigs were opened and international companies are competing for the purpose of oil exploration work in our country. Madam, apart from the overdrawal of crude from the Bombay High, the neglect of the southern sector in the earlier years, especially, the Cauvery and Godavari Basins, and the disturbances in the eastern sector, especially in Assam and Nagaland, were the causes for the fall in the production of crude oil. In the Cauvery and Godavari Basins, large reserves of crude are available. But the companies which are coming to our country for oil exploration work are concentrating only on the Bombay High and on some areas of Gujarat. They are not going to the southern sector where crude is available. Perhaps, it involves a larger amount of money. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to give any concession to those companies which are coming from abroad to the southern sector for oil exploration work because then they will be having some interest to go over there and do oil exploration.

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Madam, my hon. friend has put a very relevant question. Oil exploration is a business which involves risk capital. So in spite of the best efforts we have put in, as the hon. Member is aware, the response has been improving at a very slow pace, not to my satisfaction, not to the country's satisfaction. What we are working on right now is to arrange for a package. As I mentioned, we put in Rs. 6,500 crores as additional money. The ONGC and the Oil India put in this money. And we expect a matching amount from the international companies who join in, to make Rs. 13,000 crores, so that we can double the amount of work done. It is possible. We put in half the money and we will try to get the other half from the top companies in the oil exploration area. We expect the top companies who are doing a great job, who have a great track record, to come in and join us so that we can double the amount of oil exploration work done in a given time-frame. If we manage to do that-I am confident that we will be able to do that-we will be spreading the rigs which means better business and sales for both, for us and for them. That makes the package attractive. So far, we have been inviting people from outside for oil exploration. And some companies have responded. But, as you are aware, the response has been limited because it is risk capital that they put in. The past experience of some of them who came in had not been very happy. But I am confident that the Cauvery and Godavari Basins are high-prospect areas. When our enhanced exploration activities start, not only the Cauvery and Godavari Basins but also the deep sea areas will be covered. They will not be confined to Gujarat and Bombay High. I assure the hon. Member that these areas will be covered. Some parts of South India are high-prospect areas. They will als be one of the top areas as far as the oil exploration plan is concerned.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they will consider the strategy of preserving our resources and using the money which we are investing in exploration in friendly countries, in South-East Asia and Middle-East. I am not suggesting any import. Can we not preserve our own resources and use whatever rights we have on the oil and gas there, specially oil? Can we not get it from those countries? If not, why?

CAPT. SATISH SHARMA: Madam, the question that my hon. friend, Mr. Sanjay Dalmia, has put is a very good question. I am very glad to inform you that we are not only looking for oil prospects within the country but we are also looking for oil prospects, to get the reserve accretion, outside India. Our work is going on in Vietnam already. In

Vietnam, with the British Petroleum Standard Oil we are drilling for Oil and gas there. We are going through a very sensitive stage. There, it is not proper for me to share what we have achieved already there, but I would like to assure the hon. Members that besides Vietnam, I am looking towards Egypt, I am looking towards parts of South Africa and I am looking towards the C.I. States also to explore oil there. That is part of the strategy.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, enough number of questions have been asked on this issue. ...(*interruptions*)... Like that, I have to call everybody, not only one person, because I have got five-six names. But I do not think that we can explore more oil if there is no oil in the well. ...(*Interruptions*)... I know that. I think we should go to another question because there are questions on other subjects also.

Medicos Going Abroad

*324. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR+:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical graduates who have left the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of medical graduates who have come back to India during the above period; and

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent the medical graduates from leaving the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) No reliable information is available.

(c) Such steps include:—

(i) better promotional avenues and allowances to doctors employed by the Central Government; providing modern equipment and research facilities in tertiary case hospitals;

(ii) restrictions on going abroad for studies in medical disciplines where training facilities have already been developed in the country;

(iii) No Obligation to Return to India Certificates (NORI) which is a pre-requisite to the process of migration to USA is granted by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in exceptional circumstances.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, before asking my first supplementary, kindly allow me to ask the Minister whether he wants to correct this answer because the same hon. Minister, in reply to my own question, No. 5668 on 4th May, 1994, gave me the information, about which he says now that no reliable information is available. In reply to my same question, the Minister had given the number of medical graduates who had gone abroad and the number of medical graduates who had returned. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he wants to correct his answer.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Actually, he gave the figure, but, perhaps, he is not satisfied. So, according to him, it is not very reliable.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: At that time the angle on the question was different and now the perspectives is different.

DR. C. SILVERA: Madam, the figure got by the Member was given by the CSIR and I had given the number of doctors trained abroad and registered with CSIR in various countries and the number of those who have returned to the country during the last three years. I

+ The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar.